

October 2016 Newsletter

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Falling Leaves Greetings!

And it is really Fall! We're starting our meeting earlier this month, at the Somerset County Library, **Monday, October 17th at 7 pm for an organizational time before our wonderful watercolor demonstrator Robert Heyer.** Our president, Marge McGovern, has some questions you'll want to think about before coming...1) should we meet in the afternoon instead of the evening, or both? 2) should we continue the Holiday Show? 3) the Holiday Dinner? 4) having demonstrators and which mediums are we most interested in? 5) the bus trip?

From the President's desk...I look forward to a hearty discussion and have good feelings about what we can accomplish together. See you on the 17th.

About 7:30 Bob Heyer will start his demo... an 18"x 27" transparent watercolor, very similar to this "cameo" of it. The importance of value sketches will be shared, highlighting the use of shapes to build a strong composition. Each step of the painting process will be explained from initial wash to the final details. Questions are welcome.



Bob has developed a national reputation as a painter, teacher, and literary contributor to art magazines. His many awards (editor's note: I mean **many!**) in juried shows include The President's Award from the American Artists Professional League, the Dagmar Tribble Memorial Award from the Garden State Watercolor Society, and Best in Show from the New Jersey Water Color Society show.

His paintings and articles have been featured in such publications as **Watercolor Magazine, The Best of Watercolors, International Artist Magazine, and American Artist Magazine.** So come on out and enjoy a great evening with your fellow artists and friends!

It is with very great sadness that we note the passing of our wonderful ex-President Alka Dalal. She did so much for the Raritan Valley Arts Association, from leading the meetings, to getting us exhibits, and to having us in her home for sociable get-togethers. Her paintings were varied, in several mediums, and wonderful. A really good person, she is missed. Your editor will quote from the email she received from Alka's daughter.

"Our mother, Alka Dalal, passed away peacefully last night (October 3) after a two year battle with ALS. Prayers will be held on Saturday, October 8th at 1:30 PM at the Jain Center of NJ (11 Cedar Grove Ln, Somerset NJ). All are invited.

Born in Mumbai in the optimism just after independence, Alka and her two siblings were raised by her mother, aunt, and grandfather with a love for education and her Jain faith.

Her father, whom she adored, was jailed along with Gandhi during the struggle for Independence - and died when she was 9. Her grandfather was a Jain monk who had forsaken the material world, but would share his reflections and learnings with his precocious granddaughter. Her mother and aunt, strong women in a time of men, would impart their lessons from teaching thousands of students - and pour so much of their hopes and dreams into her.

An exuberant dancer and college slow biking champion, she was called the "tough nut" of her family for her dedication - and her obstinacy. Like so many others, she came to America for a better life, and landed in Queens, where she met my father, Sid Dalal. Their first date, at the Manhattan Monk's Inn, was rocky: he thought she talked too much about her brother and she thought he was an unkempt professor. Luckily, there was a second date that led to a loving and adventurous 38-year partnership and two children.

She led several lives, from a nutritionist at Jamaica Hospital in Queens to a manager at AT&T to a twice published author. A lifelong learner, she took extra classes on programming, painting and statistics even after earning two Masters and a Bachelors degree from NYU. Art always inspired her - and in the last 30 years, she painted hundreds of oil, acrylic and mixed media pieces, while imparting her lessons on countless students. Her artwork has been exhibited in innumerable art shows and has been sold across the world.

She believed in philanthropy, a love for mankind, and giving back - and expressed it in so many actions: from advocating for the construction of a local Jain temple, to painting for trauma-ridden American troops, to making substantial contributions to a number of charities. Our father and she established the Dalal Family Foundation to continue her legacy. One of her last words to her family was "be charitable," a philosophy she lived each day."





Our dues are past due! Individual membership is \$35. per year Family \$40. per year Student (through high school) \$20. per year. Please make your check payable to RVAA and mail the application (at the end of this newsletter) with your check to Susan Boyd, 437 Washington Avenue, Martinsville, NJ 08836. You know these wonderful demos don't just happen! They cost us! And you also have 2-3 shows a year where you can exhibit, as well as delightful events such as a bus trip to NYC. And, oh, yes, this Newsletter and our website where you can post your paintings in the "Members Gallery". So please mail your check to Susan ASAP! Thank you!

Septemember saw a good crowd for our meeting when Steve Zazenski did a luminous autumn watercolor painting from start to finish. He emphasized the importance of shadows, and good dark and light values. We all enjoyed it immensely.



Your editor urges you to see RVAA's current exhibit at the Somerville Public Library on West End Avenue in Somerville, which will be up until the end of November. There are 28 beautiful paintings in watercolor and oil on the main floor and going up the stairs to the Teen Dept. Our show went up Saturday, October 1st and my thanks to those who helped hang, especially Gard Patton and Fred Morehouse doing ladder work, and Bill Gilbert. Those artists exhibiting are Susan Boyd, Bill Gilbert, Judy Hummer, Bill Metz, Ellie Morehouse, Diana Patton, and Donna Souren. The Somerville Library welcomes individual and group shows, and you may get an application from them to do so.



We were so happy to welcome our Secretary Rosemary Zangara back at our September meeting. As you know, Rosemary has been fighting cancer and it is good to have her back with us!

The Bridgewater Creative Arts Committee (BCAC) is planning their annual October art show and open house. They are looking for local artists to submit artwork that will adorn the halls of the Bridgewater municipal building. Artwork will be up for approx. 4 weeks. **ALL SKILL LEVELS ARE WELCOME!** The BCAC is also looking for Bridgewater-based businesses to participate in a reception to be held on October 25th from 7-8:30 p.m. You may send a representative to promote your business or put on a performance. For more information email bridgewater.arts@gmail.com. Each artist may have up to three works, which can be dropped off at the Bridgewater Municipal Building (2nd floor) by Tuesday, October 18th.

Artist Getaways (*in my email from Samantha McNally*) Occidental is one month away and there's still time to sign up. Come stay for 5 nights and paint at the Sonoma Coast, Grove of Old Trees, Russian River at Cassini Ranch Camp, and Ocean Song Garden. All locations are easily accessible from the parking area. www.artistgetaway.com. Print the registration from the website or call Samantha if you have any questions. 415-828-4991. Email: info@artistgetaway.com **Artist Getaway 2016 Occidental, October 16-22, 2016** and also **Artist Getaway 2017 Half Moon Bay, May 1-5, 2017 Murphys, June 4-9, 2017** ARTIST GETAWAY, INC. PO BOX 20214 EL SOBRANTE, CA 94820-0214

Members in the News

DIANA PATTON has two illustrations in a new book just out, *Remembering the Ladies: From Patriots in Petticoats to Presidential Candidates* (Telling Her Stories) by **Carol Levin** (Carol is a librarian in Children's Services at the Somerset County Library). The book combines bios of important USA women throughout our history with b & w illustrations to be colored. It's available on Amazon.com

Uh—oh! Nobody emailed me any. Luckily we have our show at the Somerville Library and we have lots of photos in this issue. But you do want to email or snail mail me news for the next issue, don't you? Won't you? It's a combined Nov/Dec issue and your last chance for your news to be here in 2016.

RARITAN VALLEY ARTS ASSOCIATION

Membership Application

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Cell: _____

Address: _____

ART level:

Beginner () Intermediate () Advanced ()

Most used medium:

Oil () Watercolor () Pencil () Photography () Printmaking ()

() Pastel () Collage () Pen & Ink () Other: _____

() Individual \$35. per year

() Family \$40. per year

() Student (through high school) \$20. per year

Make check payable to RVAA and mail the Application with your check to Susan Boyd, 437
Washington Avenue, Martinsville, NJ 08836

Comments:

www.Raritanvalleyarts.org